

An inaugural dissertation
on

Pneumonia biliosa

by
James Mays
of
Virginia

For in regard to the

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Pneumonia biliosa

This disease comes on, with languor, and debility, which are soon succeeded, by chills, flying pains all over the body; bilious vomiting, and purging, and sometimes diarrhoea and colic; which are followed in a short time by quick breathing, considerable thirst, head ache, and other febrile symptoms. In a few hours the respiration, becomes more difficult and laborious; the patient being seized with pain in the side, extending towards the clavicle, and shoulder, and downwards along the cartilages of the false ribs; sometimes darting from the Sternum, towards the dorsal vertebra; attended at this time, with great difficulty, in making a full inspiration, and with considerable pain in coughing.

Memorandum

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state briefly, what are the
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These are the symptoms, which for the most part appear, but the patient will sometimes complain of heaviness, and oppression in the breast, probably depending upon that state of the lungs, which the French express by the word engorgement, and which we meet with in *peripneumonia notha*: Sometimes palpitation of the heart, preternatural heat, or cold, are accompanying symptoms.

Celsus in treating of this disease, as it appears in *Minorea*, observes that it was not uncommon for the pains to move about in the thorax from one side, to the other. Sometimes they would shift from the breast, to the limbs, and suddenly return to the bowels; in some rare instances, after leaving one side, they unexpectedly attacked the other, and thus proved fatal in a short time. The left side of the thorax was not so liable to be affected as the other; probably the effect, says Dr. Runk of

the combination of bilious fever, which disposed to hepatic pains, and obstructions.

Whichever side was affected, the sick lay easiest on the opposite; though the generality were obliged to lie upon their backs, or to sit up in bed, with their head erect. The external heat was in some cases less than natural, but for the most part it was very severe; the pulse was variable not only in different persons; but in the same person, at different times, there was a difference in respect to strength in different arms, that of the pained side being most obscure, a natural pulse indicated great danger. Nor was the colour or consistence of the blood to be trusted, in many it had a white, or pale yellow colour, the serum being of the same complexion, but for the most part, it was red or florid. It frequently changed its appearance in a few hours. Dr Rush observes that from the state of skin, the pulse, and

The condition of things here is not at all
improving, and is still
in a state of stagnation, and it is
in the opinion of the people, that
the year will close in the same
manner as the last. The winter
has been a failure, but for the most part
was very dry; the fields are covered with
ice and frost, but in the spring, it will
not be so. There was a report in regard to
the condition of the country, that it is
not so good, a natural fault is
in the way, and the other is
to be seen in a way to be a great
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for the most part it was a failure. It is
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thing in the country, but it is
for the most part it was a failure. It is
a great thing, in a way to be a great
thing in the country, but it is

the blood, that this disease partook a good deal of a malignant nature. The changes in the appearances of the blood, drawn at different times, show here must be influenced by the varying state, and force of the blood vessels.

The patient being able to sleep sound in a natural posture, and to make a full inspiration with ease while his thirst, and inward heat are moderate, are favourable symptoms. In this, as in most febrile diseases, there is some remission in the morning; and about the third, or fourth day, Dr. Clegg observed a considerable remission, and even sometimes a total cessation of every violent symptom; but this was remarked by him, to be a treacherous remission; for on the fourth or fifth, a delirium suddenly came on, or the breathing became more difficult than ever, and one, or both of those symptoms increasing hourly, the patient expired in a day or two, either

My dear friend
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope these few lines
will find you the same.

I have been thinking much lately of the future and
how it will be. I feel that I must do something to
make it better than it is now. I am not sure what
that something is, but I know it is something.

I am sure that I can do it. I am sure that I can
make a difference. I am sure that I can make the world
a better place. I am sure that I can make a difference
in the lives of others.

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suffocated or raving mad.

When sufficient evacuations have not been made in the early stage of the complaint; nature sometimes relieves herself by some excretion, as a copious sweat, a considerable expectoration, or a discharge of bile, and thus the life of the patient, may be saved.

Dissections exhibit every appearance which we meet with in violent inflammation of the lungs, and in bilious fever; as abscesses in the substance of the lungs, and liver, adhesions, suppurations, gangrenes, and a membrane, the effect of inflammation.

In the pneumonia biliosa or bilious pleurisy of authors; the system labours under two distinct, and violent morbid actions; the one in the liver and stomach, the other in the lungs.

This disease appears after the season of the year; when the bilious or the yellow fever prevails, it often attacks those, who have been debilitated by either

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When the weather is fair
I go to the garden
And pick the flowers
That are in bloom
And I like to see
The bees at work
And the butterflies
That fly about
And I like to see
The children play
And the dogs run
And the cats purr
And the birds sing
And I like to see
The sun shine
And the moon shine
And the stars shine
And I like to see
The world as it is
And I like to see
The world as it should be

of the above mentioned fevers, hence it occurs after autumnal epidemics. Those persons who have escaped the bilious fever in the fall, if they have been exposed to its remote Cause, are generally affected with the pneumonia biliosa in the winter, and Spring.

It is influenced in its violence by the change of the atmosphere, and Dr Sydenham when treating of it, observes; "that whoever in the cure of diseases, has not always in view the Constitution of the atmosphere, in as much as it tends to produce some particular epidemic, and likewise to reduce all the contemporary diseases, to its form, and likeness, proceeds in an uncertain and fallacious manner."

This remark of his will apply very well to the Complaint; and from what has been said of its dependence upon the same remote Cause producing the bilious, and yellow fevers it must be evident that any of the exciting causes of fevers

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as very sudden changes in the weather, cold applied to the body, when heated, violent exercise, too long and loud speaking, &c may throw the system into unhealthy and irregular action, and thus produce the disease.

As we meet with the synochus fortis, synochus typhica, and the typhus pulsis, our remedies must be various or suited to the varying and opposite states of the system.

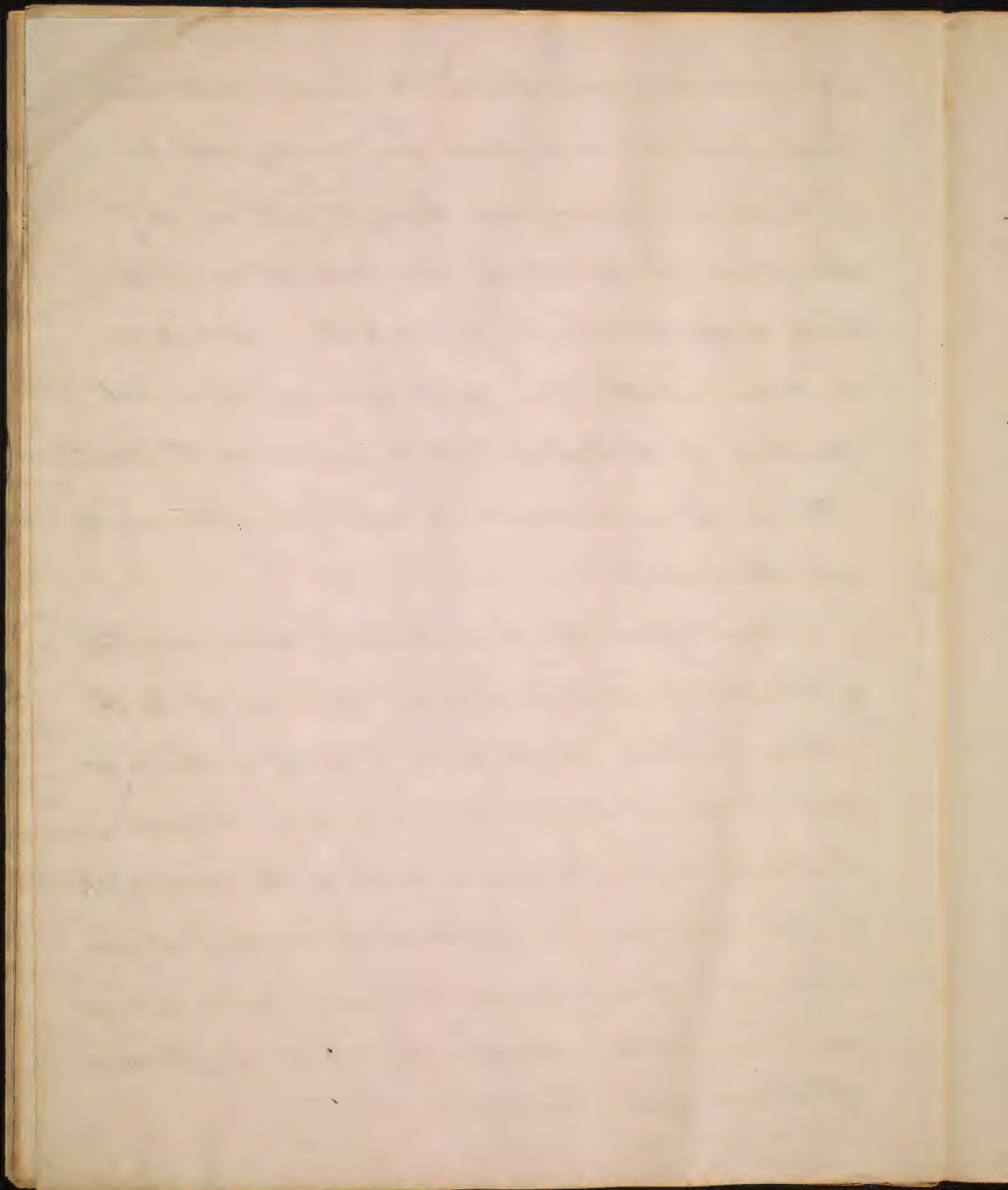
Where the pulse is synochica or synochus fortis attended with symptoms indicating great morbid excitement, bloodletting should be carried to a very great extent it should be repeated as often as occasion may require, and if possible, the blood should be drawn off early in the disease.

Dr. Cleggmore after becoming well acquainted with its dangerous tendency, and the formidable and even fatal symptoms, which in almost every

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Case occurred, and that too, in a very short time, unless sufficient evacuations were made, was in the habit of taking from thirty, to forty ounces, of blood from the patient, in the first twenty-four hours of his attendance, provided he was called in time. Altho; very great dependance in critical state of the system, is to be placed on the lancet, still our practice would be uncertain were we to rely solely on it.

Purges from the great Secretion, and exertion of bile, are of essential service; they should be of Calomel alone, in the dose of twenty or thirty grains to an adult, or they should be Calomel, combined with Jalap, rhubarb, or the mag apple of our country. It is sometimes necessary to give them every day, or every other day, and here as in other violent diseases they will operate more effectually after bloodletting.



Blisters may likewise be applied, they should as
Dr Cullen observes in all pulmonary affections be lar-
ge, it will be improper to use them untill sufficient
evacuations have been made, unless indeed, in some
cases, when they may be applied in the very
first stage.

Emetics have been highly recommended and they
certainly are entitled to our attention; but should
never be used, where there is great morbid action
and this must be reduced by the above cupting
remedies previous to their employment. In support
of what has been said of the efficacy of emetics,
I have been informed by Dr Henry Jackson
of Savannah, that the negroes, who work in the
low marshy grounds near that town, and who
are often affected with the bilious pleurisy in the
winter and spring, never require more than
one small bleeding, after promising this, and

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medic of the tartro antimonii, appears to act like
a charm, removing all the troublesome symptoms
and curing the patient in a very short time.

a circumstance worthy of notice is, that they are
seldom affected with the fevers which prevail in
the Autumn, and which prove so fatal to the
soldiers, but immediately upon the approach of
Cold weather, and during its continuance, they are
subject to the pneumonia biliosa, and are cured
as above mentioned.

In that form of the disease in which the pa-
-tient is affected with languor, considerable debility,
and a disposition to faint upon being moved,
and in which the pulse in typhoid, and
typhus, our remedies must be the reverse, of
what is found ~~so~~ essentially necessary, in the
opposite state of the system, above mentioned. Inste-
-ad of the Linct, the various Stimulants as

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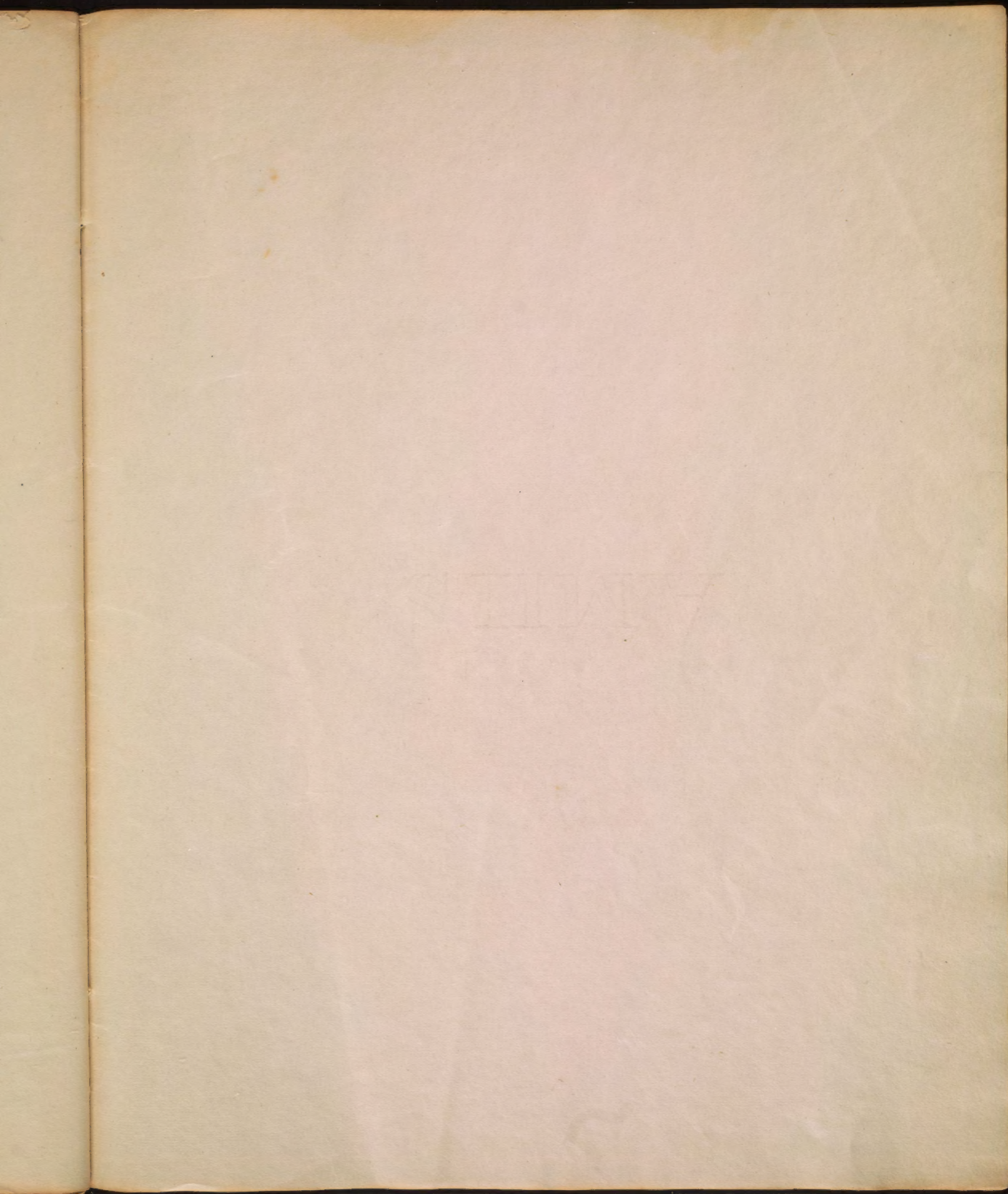
the Volat: alk: opium, the Virginia Snake root,
and Camphor must be used.

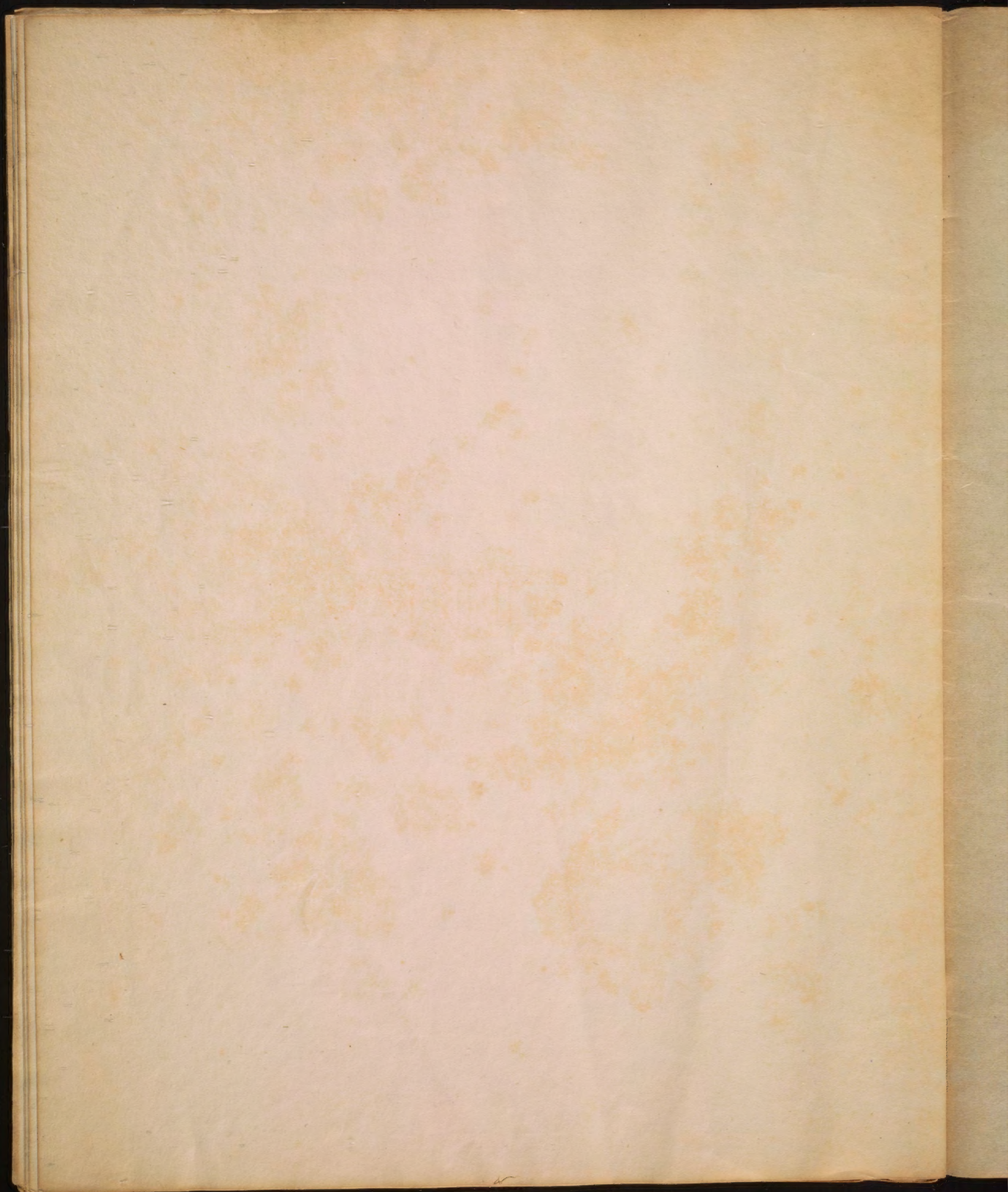
Before giving any one, or all of these it will be
proper to administer an Emetic; from what I
have seen of the good effects of Camphor alone,
and when combined with Calomel, in bilious
fever attended with debility, I have no doubt
but that it will be found a valuable remedy
and this opinion of its probable efficacy is
strengthened from having used it myself in
certain stages of pneumonia with adv-
antage. Blisters may be applied if the pain
is considerable.

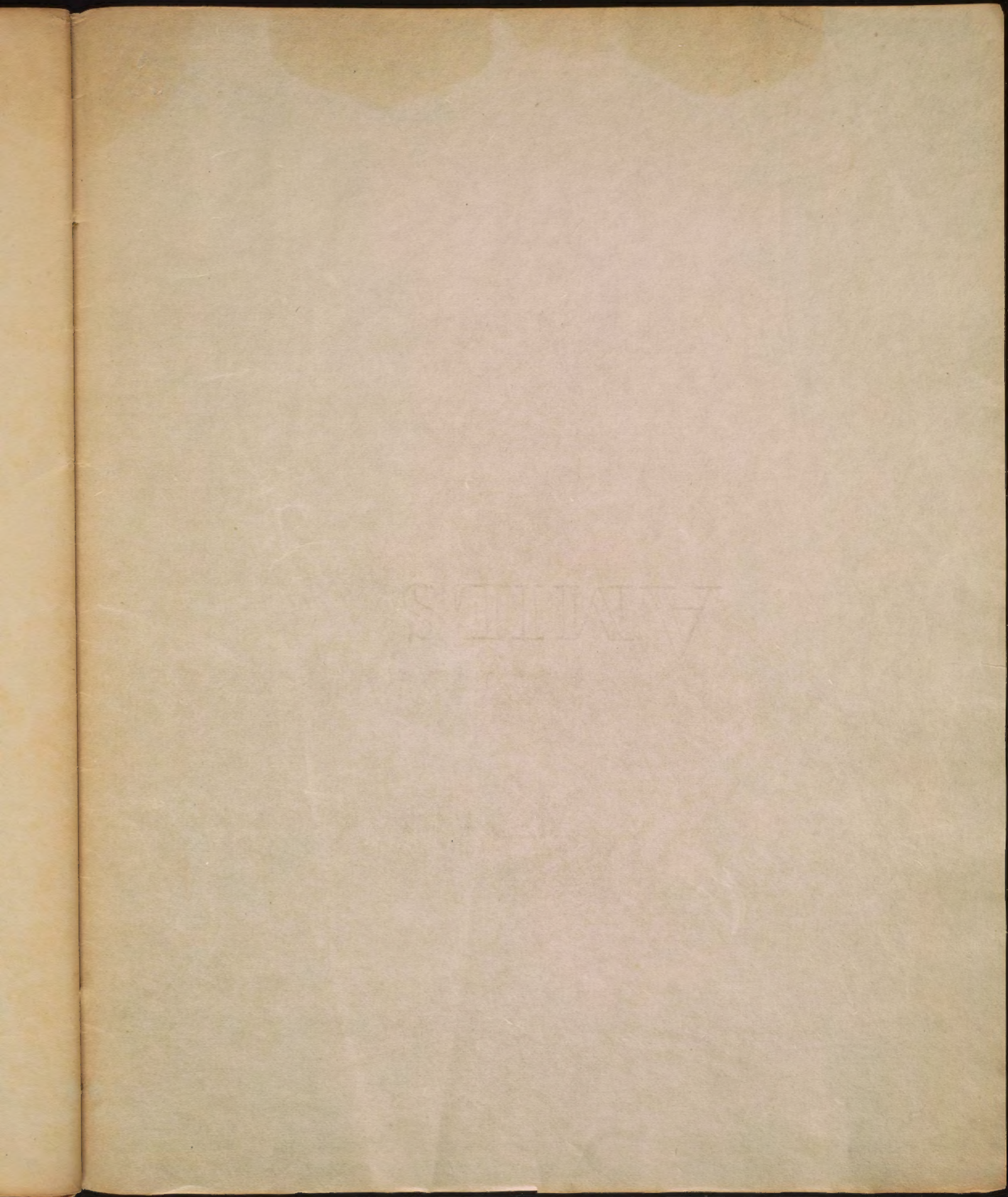
In every stage of the complaint, if the cough,
and difficulty in expectorating, should prove trou-
blesome, demulcents may be given - and opiates
may likewise be employed for the same
purpose - Tonics as the peruvian bark

once Columbo, have been given, and where the
debility is great, or where with this, the disease
puts on the form of an intermittence they certainly
may be used with advantage to the patient,









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